

REMARKS

The claims have been amended as required. Claims 17 to 22 remain active in this application.

Claims 17 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akino et al (J.P. No. 2000-77593) in view of Huang et al. (U.S. 5,994,757) further in view of Grunwald et al (U.S. 3,819,497). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Akino et al. reference was supplied in the Japanese language only with no translation included. Since all correspondence must be in the English language, the rejection is improper on its face and the Akino et al. reference is not available on the present record.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. in view of Grunwald et al. .The rejection is again respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Huang et al. with Grunwald et al. is improper since there is no teaching or suggestion to combine the references. The invention herein as well as the Huang et al. patent relate to the manufacture of leadframes. Grunwald et al. has nothing whatsoever to do with leadframes. It follows that the only suggestion to combine the references is derived from the subject application. The combination is therefore based upon hindsight and improper.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Texas Instruments Incorporated
P.O. Box 655474, M/S 3999
Dallas, TX 75265

Jay M. Cantor
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 19906
(301) 424-0355
(972) 917-5293